

Mt. Lebanon School District
School Board President Report – August 2016
Lawrence M. Lebowitz

Good evening. As most of you are aware, and due to Mrs. Cappucci's resignation from the Board last month, tonight we will be selecting a new Board member for the District. Before proceeding further, I want to again thank Mrs. Cappucci for her years of outstanding service to the District and to our children. She truly was an exemplary Board member, and we will miss her. That said, I am pleased to report that, as we learned during our interviews last week, we have five very good candidates to fill the vacancy. This evening, my colleagues and I will discuss the candidates and ultimately reach a decision as to who will join our team. I want to thank each and every one of them for their interest and willingness to join us and once again explain that, unfortunately, only one can be selected. All of us truly hope that the remaining four will continue to stay involved and seriously consider running for School Board in an upcoming election.

This week we will also be voting to authorize the administration to proceed with the preliminary engineering work required to install air conditioning in our seven elementary schools and two middle schools. This is, of course, not an easy decision but one which we have been discussing over the past many months. On one hand, I think all of us have been convinced (through, among

other things, significant input from the community) that it really is time for us to make the investment so as to enhance our children's education and, more specifically, ability to learn despite very high temperatures in their classrooms. At the same time, the cost—which we anticipate will total approximately \$5.6-\$6 million—is significant. As we will learn from Ms. Klein tonight, however, the District does have the financial resources to make this investment, and I want to thank both previous Boards and our administration for putting us in this enviable position. I look forward to our discussion.

I also want to take a minute to thank Mr. Marciniac and the entire maintenance team for their excellent work over the summer months. I have heard from several Mt. Lebanon residents about how beautiful our facilities look including fields, landscaping and the buildings themselves. I was also pleased to see a “Welcome Back Students” sign in front of each of the buildings. We all try very hard to ensure that our kids walk into a welcoming environment on the first day of school and Mr. Marciniac and his team have helped us to do just that.

This morning I had the very nice opportunity to speak to our newest teachers at their orientation session. They were all so excited both to be a member of our distinguished faculty and get started in their respective jobs. They truly should be proud of themselves in that we always have a significant number of

applicants for our positions, and these truly are the “best of the best.” As I told them, though, this success also brings a personal challenge to meet the expectations set by not only their colleagues but our entire community. We wish each of them well both this year and throughout their careers in Mt. Lebanon.

Finally, and as we are ready to embark upon the 2016-2017 school year, we also have both challenges and opportunities ahead of us. We have, most certainly, set the bar high based on the impressive academic and extracurricular performance of our kids throughout the District. As a community, we also take great pride in the performance of our schools and students and expect the same and even better in years to come. The incredible thing is that, somehow, our students never seem to disappoint us and, in fact, exceed even our own lofty expectations. We wish the administrative team, our teachers, staff and the approximate 5,300 students in the District a successful and wonderful school year.